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Albert Borgmann

University of Montana, Missoula, albert.borgmann@umontana.edu

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PHL 501 Science, Technology, and Culture

Fall 2020

Albert.Borgmann@umontana.edu

(1) INTENT OF THE COURSE

The major concern of the course is to broaden and deepen students' understanding of global warming and global justice.

(2) TEXTS

In addition to the texts below, we will keep track of developments in the public conversation regarding climate change and global equity. I will send PDFs of McKibben, Rawls, and of Kant, "Concerning the ultimate ground" in a separate email.

McKibben, Bill, "The End of Nature," pp. 47-91 in *The End of Nature* (1989).

Rawls, John, "The Law of Peoples," pp. 529-564 in *Collected Papers* (2001).

Hill, Kyle, "Derive Time Dilation Yourself," on the Internet.

Kant, "Concerning the ultimate ground of the differentiation of directions in space," on pp. 361-72 in Kant, *Theoretical Philosophy 1755-1790*.

Kant, "What Does It Mean to Orient Oneself in Thinking?" on pp. 1-16 in Kant, *Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason: And Other Writings* (2018) and on the Internet.

Heidegger, *Bremen and Freiburg Lectures*. You are expected to have a physical copy of the book. We'll only read the Bremen Lectures.

(3) STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

We are meeting in three groups of four or five students each. The groups meet at one of the following times:

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
| 11:00AM-12:00Noon | 2:45PM-3:45PM | 11:00AM-12: Noon |

We will take the concept of place as a guide to explore the cultural context of global equity and climate change, and we will emulate the tutorial system. See this link:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/08/opinion/college-reopening-online-classes.html>

Thus there will be a reading assignment for each session that we will discuss, meeting via ZOOM.

We will spend the following weeks of the semester on:

1-2: McKibben and Rawls

3-4: Kyle

5-8: Kant

9-13: Heidegger

Since the Tuesday group will not meet till August 25, the Tuesday group, to make up for missing a day, will meet for an hour and a half on August 25 and September 1.

There will be no final. Instead the Thursday group will meet November 19, Tuesday group on November 24, Wednesday group on November 25.

(4) REQUIREMENTS

a. Tutorial Conversation (one third of the course grade)

b. Journal (one third of the course grade)

Each student is to keep a journal of the day's session, each entry being of no more than 200 words. Half of the day's entry should be a summary of the day's conversation and half should consist of your reflections on what was discussed that day. You'll submit the journal at the end of the semester. It will be commented, graded, and returned.

c. Term Paper (one third of the course grade)

You are invited to pick a particular issue of personal concern that connects with global warming and global justice in the fields of science, technology, or culture. The theme of your paper may be on global warming, global justice, conservation, restoration, agriculture, wilderness, the distribution of prosperity, the Internet, the status of the arts, the structure of the economy, and the like. You are expected to *apply significant parts of what we have learned about science, technology, and culture to your paper*. I'll be glad to help with the formulation of a topic. The paper should be about 10 pp. long (2000 words), double-spaced, paginated, the notes at the end of the page. Follow any of the standard formats. The paper has to incorporate some secondary material--an article, the chapter of a book, and the like. The emphasis of the paper, however, has to be on *original reflection*.

Outline due: The Week of October 12

Paper due: The week of November 9

(5) Contact

Email me or call me at 728 1894 for advice or conversation.